

HOUSE BILL 504
By Buck

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to require the registration of a lobbyist's principal.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 3-6-115.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), before any principal causes any lobbying to occur on its behalf, the principal shall register with the registry of election finance by filing a written statement, subscribed under oath, containing the following information:

(1) The name and business address of the principal;

(2) The name and business address of a person who is the designated lobbyist for the principal, regardless of whether such person is engaged to lobby for compensation;

(3) The name and business address of each lobbyist for compensation or authorized lobbyist employed by, retained by or representing the principal;

(4) For each lobbyist for compensation, designated lobbyist or authorized lobbyist that is not an individual, the name and business address of all employees of that lobbyist who lobby on the principal's behalf;

(5) The nature of the primary business or activity, issue, interest or purpose of the principal;

(6) The duration of the engagement of any lobbyist;

(7) A description of the expenses for which each lobbyist is to be reimbursed by the principal;

(8) An estimate and report of the compensation paid or promised, directly or indirectly, to all lobbyists based on the estimated time, effort and expense in connection with lobbying activities on behalf of the principal. If the lobbyist is a full-time employee of the principal, or is compensated by means of an annual fee or retainer, the principal shall estimate and report the portion of all such lobbyists' salaries or retainers that compensate the lobbyists for lobbying; and

(9) A listing of the state entities the lobbyist has been engaged or designated to lobby including the legislature and state agencies, boards, commissions or councils.

(b) If a registration as required by subsection (a) cannot be accomplished or is not practicable in advance of the first attempt or occasion to lobby, registration must occur within five (5) business days after the day on which the first lobbying attempt, occasion or activity occurs.

(c) Each principal shall reregister during November of each even numbered year unless at that time the principal no longer engages any lobbyist.

Each principal shall amend its registration statement within five (5) business days of any change in the information required by subsection (a).

(d) A principal shall provide notice to each lobbyist for compensation, authorized lobbyist and designated lobbyist who is named in the principal's registration or reregistration statement. The notice shall state that the principal has listed the lobbyist for compensation, authorized lobbyist or designated lobbyist on the principal's registration or reregistration statement and that this listing obligates the lobbyist for compensation or designated lobbyist to register and file all reports required by this part. The notice shall be accompanied by a summary of the lobbyist laws published in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 6, Part 1, the first page of the principal's registration and the page of the schedule on which the name of the lobbyist for compensation, authorized lobbyist or designated lobbyist appears.

(e) Each principal that registers a lobbyist for compensation or a designated lobbyist who receives compensation for lobbying from the principal, at the time of registering or reregistering, shall pay a registration or reregistration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to the registry of election finance. No principal may be charged more than one (1) twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee per registration period. Registration and reregistration fees collected by the registry of election finance shall be deposited, as provided by law, in the state general fund, and subject to legislative appropriation, the registration and reregistration fees for principals shall be used to reduce the costs associated with enforcing the lobbyist registration laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it, and all principals subject to the provisions of this act shall initially register by November 1, 2003.